

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 650

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Herman Victor Hall for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Navy; Herman Victor Hall is one such patriot who has served his country with honor and conviction; and

WHEREAS, as the world was beginning to fear the approach of a second world war, World War II, Mr. Hall voluntarily joined the Navy at Norfolk, Virginia; trained as a boatswainmate, he was charged with overseeing 8" and 3" naval guns; and

WHEREAS, on "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan"; stationed aboard Yard Craft YG 17 alongside the USS *West Virginia* with the USS *Oklahoma* at his back, he watched with trepidation as torpedoes passed under his vessel on their way to sink the battleship to his side; and

WHEREAS, for forty hours, he and his crew battled the raging fires on the USS *West Virginia*, as the realization began to slip in that they had participated in the first battle of a war that could prove to be either America's greatest or final hour; and

WHEREAS, as the war raged on, this gallant sailor made innumerable sacrifices in defense of his homeland and all that he loved; and

WHEREAS, when the freedom of our nation, and the world was threatened by foreign aggression, Herman Victor Hall joined the many men and women of his era who left their normal lives behind to oppose tyranny, defend liberty and ensure opportunity for the generations that would follow; and

WHEREAS, the courageous efforts of his generation shaped the global landscape for decades to follow and earned them the rightful recognition as the "Greatest Generation" that the world has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, unlike many of his fellow sailors, who were content to return to civilian life following their estimable service during World War II, Mr. Hall made the commendable decision to remain active in the military to help ensure that the successes of the war were not squandered and to defend his nation against future threats; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty years in the Navy, he served at bases in Salt Lake City, Pearl Harbor, the Esperanto Sutties Islands, Washington, Guam, the Philippines, and Patuxent River, where he was with the Navy Atomic Bomb Squad; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1954, he received his honorable discharge, having attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer Boatswainmate; and

WHEREAS, after taking a well-deserved retirement, he was most grateful to enjoy the freedoms he had defended and the loving compassion of his wife of fifty-five years, the late Ila Mae Hall; and

WHEREAS, always wholly devoted to upholding family and community values of the highest order, he is the proud and loving father of three children; and

WHEREAS, Herman Victor Hall served with an uncommon courage and gallantry that deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism, and his selfless service to his country will be long remembered and treasured by his fellow Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Herman Victor Hall, United States Navy, Retired, for his selfless devotion, unsurpassed moral courage, and meritorious service in the United States Armed Forces, as we express our pride in, and gratitude for, his supreme contributions to this State and our Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.